

Mt. Lebanon School District

{ Gifted Program Review
13 May 2019





About the Review

- Superintendent Goal for 2018-2019 school year
- Assess effectiveness of program and alignment to
 - State and national standards
 - District's vision and gifted philosophy
- Stufflebeam's Context-Input-Process-Product (CIPP) model

Best Practices in Gifted Education

- Positive effect on students' post-secondary plans
- Include social awareness and adjustment, academic planning, and vocational and career awareness
- Assessments include multiple indicators that measure mastery of content, higher level thinking skills, achievement in specific program areas, and affective growth
- Individualized based on needs of student



Philosophy of MTLSD Program



- Inclusive - within the regular classroom
- Student-centered curriculum - depth & breadth
- Opportunities for acceleration
- Careful grouping of students
- Ongoing professional development for faculty & staff

Program Review Committee



- Heather Doyle - Director of Special Education
- Marybeth Irvin - Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Education
- Sarah Shaw – Principal of Jefferson Elementary
- Erika Vasquez – School Psychologist
- Laura Pitzer - Classroom Teacher
- Christa Smith – Elementary Gifted Coordinator
- Kathryn Duchin – Middle School Gifted Coordinator
- Kathleen Konechny – High School Gifted Coordinator

Methodology

- Review of relevant District guiding documents
- Review of documents from the Pennsylvania Department of Education and National Association for Gifted Children
- Survey, interview, and focus groups with teachers, parents, and students
- Analysis of student performance data
- Analysis of gifted screening data



Commendations



- Aligned with the District's mission and vision as well as the District's philosophy of gifted services
- In accordance with state guidelines and best practices as identified by the National Association for Gifted Children
- Tiers of enrichment and challenge within the general curriculum
- Comprehensive Advanced Placement program and honors-level classes
- Gifted students demonstrate appropriate levels of academic growth and perform at an advanced level on state and local assessments

Commendations



- Multiple opportunities to work with like-minded peers.
- Feedback indicates positive effects on student motivation and enthusiasm for learning.
- The majority of students and parents indicated that gifted programming was meeting their needs.
- Students enjoy goal setting and meeting with teachers and coordinators.

Recommendations



- Develop consistent guidelines and procedures related to subject-level and grade-level acceleration
- Increase professional development opportunities available to educators
- Revise the elementary gifted screening process
- Establish a group for families and parents of gifted students

The committee has concluded that the Mt. Lebanon School District Gifted Program is meeting the needs of our students.

Thank you!

